made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the hereafter appended claims.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for aligning packet loss priority information for overload control
5   of a data-packet-switching communications device wherein data packets and respectively allocated packet loss priority information are transmitted to the communications device and buffered in relation to a specific connection. The packet loss priority information is then read from the buffered data packets and modified according to the connection type or the application-specific data traffic
10 type. After the data packet has been switched in the communications device, the original packet loss priority information which was switched with the data packets is re-inserted into the corresponding data packet.

In the claims:

On page 10, cancel line 1, and substitute the following left-hand justified
15 heading therefor:

We Claim as Our Invention:

Please cancel claims 1-7, without prejudice, and substitute the following claims therefor:

8.   A method for aligning packet loss priority information for overload
20 control of a communications device that switches data packets, the method comprising the steps of:

transferring and buffering in a memory area, via the communications device, the data packets and respectively allocated loss priority information in relation to a specific connection;

25   reading the packet loss priority information from the buffered data packets;

modifying the packet loss priority information of the buffered data packet depending on at least one of the connection type and application-specific data traffic type; and

restoring, after a data packet has been switched in the communications
30 device, the original packet loss priority information in the corresponding data packet.

9.   A method for aligning packet loss priority information for overload control of a communications device as claimed in claim 8, the method further
35 comprising the steps of:

8

recording the packet loss priority information read from the buffered data
packet in an additional communications-device-specific data packet header;

attaching the additional data packet header to the buffered data packet; and

switching the buffered data packet, including the attached additional data

5 packet header, in the communications device.

10. A method for aligning packet loss priority information for overload
control of a communications device as claimed in claim 8, the method further
comprising the step of:

10 allocating different loss priorities to the respective data packet by the packet
loss priority information.

11. A method for aligning packet loss priority information for overload
control of a communications device as claimed in claim 8, the method further

15 comprising the step of:

modifying the respective data packets of a group of data packets with packet
loss priority information depending on at least one of the connection type and the
application-specific data traffic type.

20 12. A method for aligning packet loss priority information for overload
control of a communications device as claimed in claim 9, the method further
comprising the step of:

removing the additional communications-device-specific data packet header
attached to the data packet after a data packet has been switched in the

25 communications device.

13. A method for aligning packet loss priority information for overload
control of a communications device as claimed in claim 8, wherein, in cell-
switching communications devices, the packet loss priority information is cell loss

30 priority information.

9